

SC381085

Registered provider: Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a local authority. It offers care for up to two children who may have experienced early childhood instability that has led to trauma and associated complex behaviours.

The previous manager resigned in April 2022. A new manager is in post. They are yet to submit an application to register.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 August 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
---	------

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 April 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

Ofsted carried out a full inspection on 25 and 26 April 2022. Serious shortfalls were identified and the home was judged as inadequate. Three compliance notices were issued under regulation 6, the quality and purpose standard, regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. A notice restricting accommodation was issued on 27 April 2022.

On 8 June 2022, a monitoring visit took place. The three compliance notices were considered met, and the notice to restrict accommodation was lifted on 17 June 2022.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/04/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/06/2021	Full	Good
09/04/2019	Full	Good
12/06/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child has moved in since the last inspection. He has lived at the home for eight weeks. Another child is currently in the process of moving into the home. Her experiences are also captured within this report. She has benefited from a carefully planned transition. This has included staying for meals, overnight stays and enjoying activities with the current child. Both children enjoy many of the same hobbies. For example, they enjoy going to watch the local football team together.

Staff have taken the time to talk to the current child about another child moving in. This has given him the opportunity to discuss his feelings around this. The two children have already started to form a positive relationship with each other. On the day of the inspection, the current child was seen to be helping the new child in with her bags. This helped the child to feel welcomed.

Children receive good support from staff to help them to follow their hobbies and aspirations. For example, one child is part of a gymnastic group, and another child is being supported to be able to join a local football club. Children become part of the local community. For example, a child took part of 'brave the shave' and raised £250 for charity. He has also been helping out in the local Caribbean kitchen, which supports the local community. This experience also enabled him to try Caribbean food for the first time.

Staff want the best for the children who live here. Their positive relationships are clear to see. Children like spending time with staff and enjoy living here.

The home environment is clean, welcoming and well furnished. There are personalised pictures around the home. Children have personalised their bedrooms with the help from staff. One child has a disco light installed, which he is proud of.

A healthy variety of meals are available to children in the evenings. However, not as much attention is paid to providing children with a healthy lunch and snacks. A recommendation has been made as a result.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Managers and staff provide children with consistent praise and rewards. Children benefit from the staff's focus on positive behaviour and relationships. There have been no incidents where children have gone missing from care or needed to be held to keep them safe.

Children are actively involved in the day-to-day, and more complex, decisions about their lives. For example, children make plans with staff about how to keep them safe. Staff discuss safety with children and written plans are easy to understand and

child focused. As a result, children understand the actions staff will take to help to keep them safe. Managers are now ensuring that staff training is up to date. Where they identify gaps, training is booked to ensure that staff have the necessary skills to keep children safe. Staff have obtained their level 3 qualification in residential childcare within the necessary timescales.

The manager ensures that staff who are recruited to work in the home are subject to all the necessary checks. This helps to ensure that staff who work at the home are safe to do so.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is a new manager and some new staff in the home. The new manager has taken the time to help staff to learn and reflect on the home's past difficulties. He has reenergised them and has made sure they have felt part of the journey of improvement. For example, all staff have clear tasks and are accountable for these tasks. They have helped to decorate the home and are excited about the future.

Staff and managers have worked hard to make the necessary improvements required from the previous inspection. As a result, the requirements raised at the last inspection have been met. There are already good plans to support children's educational needs. Children's health needs are given the consideration they require, and the staff rotas now clearly demonstrate the hours that staff have worked.

Team meetings and staff supervisions take place monthly and are now used as a place for reflection and learning. Important issues are tracked and discussed, and children are now at the centre of all staff practice.

Staff are happy to work in this home. They feel that the new manager has brought a new focus and high aspirations for the home and what it can achieve. A member of staff told the inspector, 'We have [a] new manager in place now who motivates and supports staff in all areas. He wants the very best for our children and it's a pleasure to work with him and [the] two fantastic children we have at [the home].

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children are provided with nutritious meals suitable for each child's needs. ('Guide to the Children's Home's Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.8)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC381085

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: City of Stoke-on-Trent, Swann House, Boothern Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 4SY

Responsible individual: Tracey Docksey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Louise Battersby, Social Care Inspector

Marianne Grandfield, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022